



Carpet Recycling Comes of Age

Each year more than 2.5 million tons of carpets are discarded in this country. With resources and landfill space in short supply, it is necessary to look for ways to recycle bulky materials, like carpet. In addition to reducing the burden on landfills, carpet recycling provides other benefits.

Carpet is a petroleum-based product. It is estimated that carpet recycling can save more than 700,000 barrels of oil per year, conserving 4.4 trillion BTUs of energy. Energy savings translate into fewer pollutants as well, cutting air and greenhouse gas emissions. Most carpet and carpet padding rip-ups generated by homes are recyclable in some way. Only old horsehair and jute padding is non-recyclable.

To help residents and carpet installers do the right thing, the County just opened a carpet recycling drop-off at the Resource Recovery Complex in Mansfield. Residents and installers can drop off dry residential carpet and padding for a fee of \$35/ton, much less than the landfill fee of \$64.41. This fee will cover the County's cost to transport it to a recycler and pay their recycling fee. There are only two conditions for recycling – the carpet/padding must be dry and free of garbage bags of scrap, debris, etc.

The carpet will be transported to CarpetCycle, LLC, a carpet and padding recycling business in Elizabeth. Carpet Cycle sorts the carpet and pad by fiber type, and then bales and ships it to customers who process it into new carpet and pad or recycle it into plastic products. For more information about carpet recycling, go to www.carpetcycle.com or www.carpetrecovery.org

For more information about the County's carpet recycling program, email recycle@co.burlington.nj.us or call 609-499-1001.